NOTES FROM THE:

Air Force Financial Systems Management Office

by Mr Rick Staley

Welcome to the enhanced world of FACTS – that is, the **Financial Accounting Comptroller ToolS (FACTS). As discussed in the April 2002 issue of *The Air Force Comptroller*, FACTS is** a hyperlinked, web-based (http://www.factsdata.com/) financial management information tool.

FACTS is designed to provide individual users multiple ways to inquire about the wealth of information contained in its portfolio of root accounting and financial systems as well as information on how the root systems relate to the underlying feeder systems (Tier One, Tier Two, and Tier Three). FACTS contains complete systems information on over 220 of the most important financial management and accounting systems the Air Force deals with on a daily basis.

The FACTS data content is current and readily available for training new members of the Air Force Financial Management community in the complex world of financial management systems tasks as well as a continuing up-to-date reference source for more experienced personnel. FACTS also provides a complete systems roadmap of Air Force involvement in OSD's new Financial Management Modernization Program (**FMMP**).

In a July 19, 2001 memo, Secretary Rumsfeld established the Financial Management Modernization Program, under the authority of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) in coordination with the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics) and Department of Defense Chief Information Officer. The memo directed the creation of a Program Management Office responsible for the development of a defense-wide enterprise architecture as well as control and oversight of financial and related non-financial business systems. One of the first tasks facing the new program management office was taking stock of all the financial management and related non-financial business systems operating within the DoD.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management fully supported the creation of the new enterprise architecture and immediately began searching for a way to quickly respond to the new program office's calls for systems information.

Using an expanded version of the original FACTS project database, SAF/FMs Air Force Financial Systems Management Office, located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, was able to quickly identify all twenty-one Air Force Root Accounting and Finance Systems and the complete Tier One, Tier Two, and Tier Three supporting systems structure.

The original FACTS project database has gone through several name changes, including Financial Information System Assessment (**FISA**), JustASK, and ISAG Encyclopedia. When the ISAG Encyclopedia changed its name to FACTS, it was originally baselined with only 105 systems mostly related to Air Force Materiel Command operations. However, the current FACTS system, which has been completely reconciled with the Financial Management Architecture template submissions, has been significantly upgraded and now includes over 220 systems covering Air Force and DFAS financial management operations worldwide. All systems have a description of the associated technical information as well as complete information on such things as systems interfaces, POCs, technical certifications, CFO compliance status, and fund type. FACTS also contains direct links to over 15 other web sites including OMB, GAO, Treasury, and DFAS as well as a direct connection to the DefenseLink site.

The primary users of FACTS are new members of the Air Force financial management community needing guidance in the complex world of financial systems as well as more experienced financial management personnel looking for an easy to use and quick reference source for complex systems information. The FACTS database provides each user with a roadmap describing the financial system they are interested in, what it does, and which program management, program sustainment, and infrastructure the system interfaces with. FACTS also saves time and money by providing financial management leadership personnel with a relevant, accurate, reliable, and timely reference for use as a decision making aid.

Future enhancements to FACTS will include a discovery mode of inquiry, much like Internet word searching, as opposed to drill down type inquires. That enhancement will be operational by 1 June 2003. Today, FACTS provides the user multiple ways to inquire about the wealth of information contained in its portfolio of financial management systems and how that information relates to the underlying feeder systems.

FACTS' relational database also allows the user to select, summarize, and array information by multiple parameters and data elements.

Everyone is encouraged, when initially accessing FACTS, to start by reviewing the Guidance Roadmap and the site's functional breakdown structure. The Guidance Roadmap displays the laws, policies, requirements, programs, and key publications applicable to the financial management community.

The functional breakdown section identifies all systems related to an Air Force financial function, how the system is supported today, and how it will be supported in the future. This section can be viewed by Domain, (e.g., Acquisition, Cost Management, Property Management) or Category, (e.g., Core Financial Management, Program Sustainment, Program Management).

FACTS also maintains summary level data with drill down capability to technical and functional details of all the systems. The technical and functional documented details can be viewed from a hardware, operating system, database, or language perspective. Specific details are available, such as a detailed system description, primary and secondary feeder and receiver systems, system infrastructure (operating systems, hardware detail, software, languages, and database platforms). Migration paths are shown in current and planned systems, interim actions, and long-term objectives.

FACTS data content also includes Chief Financial Officer (**CFO**) Act and DoD Chief Information Officer (**CIO**) certifications. An on-line change request capability allows users to submit corrections, changes, or updates to the FACTS database and there are hyperlinks located throughout the website. For example, clicking on the Guidance Roadmap, and then clicking on "Publications" provides a direct link to key DoD financial management publications.

Bottom line, AFFSMO personnel are working hard to provide the Air Force's financial management community with an informational system that not only provides useful and accurate financial management information to each and every user, but "timely" information as well. For any additional information regarding FACTS, please logon to **http://www.factsdata.com/**. For information on other AFFSMO systems/programs, please visit the AFFSMO website at https://affsmo.wpafb.af.mil/, or contact AFFSMO personnel via telephone at DSN 787-4377. **FM**